

New Boston Conservation Commission (NBCC)
Meeting Notes
May 5, 2016

Treasurer's Report: The money for the Rail Trail has not been transferred to the revolving fund for Phase I of the Rail Trail and the CC continues to receive funds from properties recently taken out of current use.

Brochure Updates: More revisions are in progress.

Foot Traffic Safety Committee Updates (Betsy): Laura reported the Committee met last week and threw out the bids and revised the bid request, new bids were requested and will be opened Monday at 2:00 PM. The Committee is still fundraising and it is going well.

Lot Line Adjustment(s): Open Space Committee Chairman Ken Lombard is still working with Mark Damien about trading land at the BDCA or moving the sheds he built on town owned property. Mark agreed to swap land but it is a town forest, making it difficult. Ken is still working on this. If it doesn't work out the sheds will be moved. Ken will work on the Mill Pond lot line adjustment next.

Abutter Encroachment: Code Enforcement Officer Ed Hunter sent another letter to abutter Susan MacDonald who is encroaching on a CA with one and a half sheds and a burn pile with a date they have to be moved. Ed then talked to her and she is going to move the items next week. If they are not moved the CC will move them.

Master Plan: Town Planner Mark Fougere is working on the Master Plan and reaching out to town committees for input within 90 days. The CC can help with the natural resources section. Barbara prepared a list of CC applicable sections and will send the list to CC members again. A CC meeting can be scheduled with Mark to discuss. It is mostly generalized but some things can be added about trail creation and maintenance. The current Master Plan is available on the town website.

Grant Opportunity: Rebecca and Louise attended a recreational trails program grant meeting. The grant application is due in June. The CC can request up to \$80,000 with an 80% match. Two applications are allowed for this year. Rebecca will start the process and asked Laura for some information for the application. Permission from landowners is needed. This application is for Phase II of the Rail Trail. A lump sum cost for bid proposal is ok. Anything over \$10,000 will need three bids and the project must be completed in a year. The grant will pay 10% of engineering fees. Permits need to be started. The first section of Phase II, the DRED section, already has permit approvals. This could be considered "Phase IIa." Tuesday Adam, Willard Dodge, Jon Strong and Louise will walk Phase II to mark culverts, tag trees to be removed and take pictures.

Trail Clearing Club Projects: NBCS Physical Education Teacher Jackie Moulton and her Trail Maintenance Club have been working on trail clearing Mondays and Tuesdays after school. They worked at Mill Pond and did a great job. This week and next week they are working at the Bailey Pond trail. They then may go to Gallerani CA, Barbara will prep and mark the area.

Replacement/Maintenance of Saunders Pasture Gate: Laura, Louise and Gerry met with Saunders Pasture Steward Gordon Russell and Matt Tarr from UNH to review the CA and advise Gordon. Gordon Russell said a post needs to be replaced. Gerry suggested moving rocks to make the entrance wider. New posts will be purchased and rocks will be moved as suggested.

Notes of Saunders Pasture Meeting: Laura, Louise and Gerry met with Saunders Pasture Steward Gordon Russell and Matt Tarr from UNH to review the CA and advise Gordon. Matt said Gordon has done a great job and the best use of pasture is to have tiny habitats around as Gordon has done. Matt suggested each year at the same time of year the steward should look out over the pasture and cut down the tallest “clump” in the pasture at that time and leave the rest that year. Mowing should not be done often, maybe every other year or every third year. The PLC holds the easement here and is in charge of approving the plan. Laura will prepare notes of the meeting.

Correspondence:

- Gordon wrote to Laura that Saunders Pasture CC may be out of trail guides but there are plenty left.
- Barbara took a picture of the clearing issue at Dennison and Clark Hill Roads, lots 8-1-12 and 8-1-10. There is a stream going through the lots. Two complaints came in about the cutting. Laura called Forest Ranger Brian Nowell to see if he wanted to look at it. No intent to cut was filed.
- Bill Dunn called as he and his extended family own property on Riverdale Road, a wooded vacant 24 acre parcel at map 3 lot 85 that abuts 32 acres in Goffstown. The family is looking for opportunities to get rid of the property but keep as conserved open space. Ken Lombard will look at the property.
- A subdivision is being considered at the Mary Ellen St. Laurent property on Bailey Pond.
- A conservation easement stewardship newsletter came in from SPNHF.

Any Other Business That Needs To Be Discussed:

- Maralyn e-mailed a list of Action Items for each member. Please review your list and send any updates to her.
- Adam and Louise walked Skofield where Adam will cut some trees. Mark Debowski is also available for cutting. The chainsaw is at the CC shed.
- Louise invited the Girl Scouts, the Boy Scouts and the Joe English Scouts to help with the footbridge in July. Adam will advise what to do.
- Adam will advise how to build two more local and natural water crossings are needed at Skofield CA. A pick Maddox, and single bevel rock bars are needed. Adam will prepare a list of needed equipment.

- Barbara will show Adam an area at Bailey Pond where a water crossing is needed to complete a loop at that area.
- A Rail Trail meeting is scheduled for May 16. Molly Higgins is doing a great job helping get the word out. Louise received some e-mails asking to leave the trail the way it is. Laura noted the same thing happened when Phase I was being planned but the project received lots of support and use once the project started. There are plenty of other rustic trails in town. A Town Warrant is not needed for this project as the town authorized the CC to conduct trail maintenance. A motion was made at the last Rail Trail meeting to place signs at all CAs saying “dawn to dusk” and to allow overnight camping with permission on Phase I only. If work is done on the trail near abutters the CC will notify them. Parking area signs are needed at Rail Trail.
- Louise is researching kiosks for trail heads. Louise asked Aaron to figure out a way to build these and he is happy to help in July.
- Emily paid a fee for Facebook ads for the Zombie Race, she is submitting the receipt for reimbursement of \$50.
- Willard bought material to build railings on the concrete bridges of Rail Trail Phase I.

Respectfully submitted,

Maralyn Segien